

Woodpeckers Prompt Shift in Roofing TPO



Wind and birds cause turmoil atop Arizona school.

[San Simon Elementary School](#) Facility Manager Lee Ivey had frequently patched the Arizona school's elastomeric roofing due to damage by woodpeckers. But now that the roof is being replaced, the school is changing its roof membrane to an ethylene propylene rubber material (TPO) that doesn't appeal to the birds.

Also, emergency repairs are being done to the 2,000 square foot metal roof of the gymnasium at nearby Tohono O'odham High School. The roof was torn off by a microburst of wind during a summer storm. As the gym's metal seam roofing material is no longer available, the contractor had to pre-form them on site.

A contractor seals the seams in San Simon's new roofing TPO which is not appealing to woodpeckers that had damaged the previous TPO.



Western Region General Engineer Michael Redhair (center) examines screw patterns in a new roof at San Simon Elementary School in Arizona while ensuring that the dense roofing boards are not spongy or springy. Meanwhile, a roofing contractor makes sure the screws are reaching down to the metal decking.

